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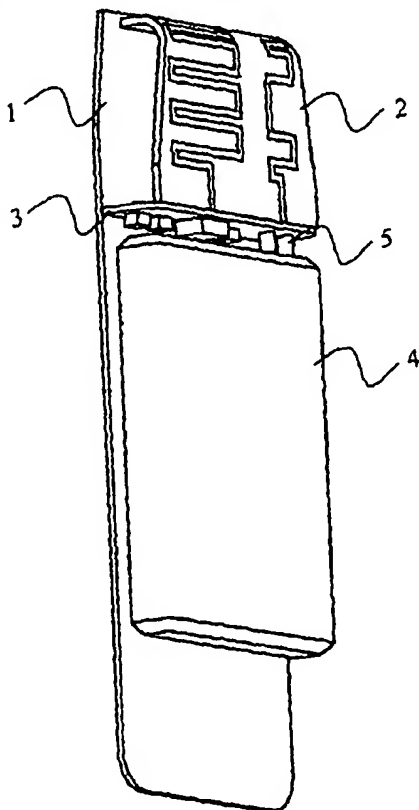
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(54) Title: A PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATION DEVICE AND AN ANTENNA ARRANGEMENT FOR A PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATION DEVICE



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a portable radio communication device comprising a first planar dielectric substrate provided with electric circuitry (1); an antenna arrangement, including an antenna element (2, 2') and a second planar dielectric substrate different from said first planar dielectric substrate and provided with electric circuitry (3), wherein the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric substrate is connected to the electric circuitry of said first planar dielectric substrate and to said antenna element; at least one power amplifier for amplification of RF signals to be transmitted via said antenna element; and a power supply connector connected to a power supply (4) for supplying said power amplifier with DC power; wherein said at least one power amplifier and said power supply connector are arranged on said second planar dielectric substrate and connected to the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric circuitry.

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**A PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATION DEVICE AND AN ANTENNA
ARRANGEMENT FOR A PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATION DEVICE**

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to portable radio
5 communication devices.

BACKGROUND

In radio communication systems of today there is an ever
increasing demand for making the user devices smaller. This
is especially true when it comes to portable radio
10 communication devices, such as mobile telephones. The design
of mobile telephones must permit them to be easily and
rapidly manufactured at low costs. However, the mobile
telephones must still be reliable in use and exhibit good
performance.

15 The increasing demand puts requirements e.g. on the antenna
arrangement of a mobile telephone to be compact, versatile
and to have good antenna performance. It must also be
robust, stable, easy to mount, easy to connect, and arranged
so as to efficiently use the available space. The
20 requirements are particularly high when mounting an antenna
arrangement inside the housing of a mobile telephone to
avoid protruding antenna parts.

The radiating properties of an antenna arrangement for a
small-sized structure, such as a mobile telephone, depend
25 strongly on the shape and size of support structures, such
as e.g. a printed circuit board (PCB) of the mobile
telephone, or a phone casing. All radiation properties, such
as resonance frequency, input impedance, radiation pattern,
impedance, polarization, gain, bandwidth, and near-field
30 pattern are affected by the antenna arrangement itself and

its interaction with the PCB and the phone casing. On top of this, objects in the close-by environment such as a user affect radiation properties.

What has been stated above is true also with respect to
5 portable radio communication systems used in other
apparatuses than mobile telephones, such as cordless
telephones, telemetry systems, wireless data terminals, etc.
Thus, even if the antenna arrangement of the present
invention is described in connection with mobile telephones
10 it is applicable on a broad scale of various portable radio
communication apparatuses.

For all types of radio communication devices, the part
between the antenna element and the active components of the
RF front-end is critical for the total performance of the
15 radio communication device. This is because all losses that
occur here are critical from a system point of view. On the
receiver side losses that occur before the low noise
amplifier (LNA) degrade the sensitivity of the receiver. On
the transmitter side, losses that occur after the power
20 amplifier (PA) cause degradation of the transmitted power,
forcing the PA to transmit at a higher output level.

These factors are even more critical for mobile telephones
as they experience various signal conditions and are battery
powered. Reduced receiver sensitivity causes the device to
25 perform worse in areas with low signal levels. A higher
output level from the PA increases the energy consumption
from the battery, thereby reducing the available operation
time.

Resistive losses can be substantially reduced by shortening
30 the connection lines between the antenna element and the
required active components. This can be obtained by mounting

the components close to the antenna element, and preferably on a common support structure from the components in order to form a separate antenna module.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 An object of the present invention is to provide a portable radio communication device and an antenna arrangement for a portable radio communication device that reduces the influence of the head of a user close to the portable radio communication device.

10 Another object of the present invention is to provide a portable radio communication device and an antenna arrangement for a portable radio communication device that utilize available space efficiently.

These objects, among others, are according to the present
15 invention attained by devices and arrangements, respectively, as defined in the appended claims.

By providing a power amplifier (PA) and a power supply connector on an antenna PCB a shortened current path from the power supply connector to the PA and subsequently on to
20 the radiating element is achieved. The current to the PA and subsequently on to the radiating element is one of the highest DC currents in a portable radio communication device. Since the current path of one of the highest currents in the portable radio communication device is
25 shortened resistive losses are kept to a minimum.

By removing the need of a power amplifier and a power supply connector from a main PCB of a portable radio communication device to an antenna PCB an increased distance to the head of a user close to the portable radio communication device
30 is achieved. Since one of the highest DC currents is moved

away from the head of a user close to the portable radio communication device reduced influence between the head of the user and that DC current is obtained.

By providing an antenna PCB essentially perpendicular to a
5 main PCB in a portable radio communication device efficient utilization of the available space is achieved.

Further features and advantages of the present invention will be evident from the following description of embodiments.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will become better understood from the detailed description of embodiments given below and the accompanying figures, which are given by way of illustration only, and thus, are not limitative of the present invention,
15 wherein:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a stripped-down portable radio communication device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 shows a side view of a stripped-down portable radio
20 communication device according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 shows a side view of a stripped-down portable radio communication device according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

25 Fig. 4 shows a side view of a stripped-down portable radio communication device according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 5 shows a side view of a stripped-down mobile telephone according to a general aspect of the present invention and a side view of a stripped-down prior art mobile telephone.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

- 5 In the following description, for purpose of explanation and not limitation, specific details are set forth, such as particular techniques and applications in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be apparent for a person skilled in the art that the
- 10 present invention may be practiced in other embodiments that depart from these specific details. In other instances, detailed description of well-known methods and apparatuses are omitted so as not to obscure the description of the present invention with unnecessary details.
- 15 A first embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to Fig. 1.

A portable radio communication device, such as a mobile telephone, comprises a planar dielectric substrate provided with electric main circuitry, such as a main printed circuit

20 board (PCB) 1 provided with components for operation of the telephone; an antenna element 2 including radiating elements; a planar dielectric substrate provide with electrical antenna circuitry, such as an antenna PCB 3 provided with components for operation of the antenna

25 element; and a power supply 4, such as a battery.

The antenna PCB 3 is attached essentially perpendicular to the main PCB 1 by means of a connector, which orientation provides efficient utilization of space in the mobile telephone. The antenna PCB 3 may alternatively be arranged

30 parallel to the main PCB 1 or inclined in various angles thereto. The antenna PCB 3 is provided with a power supply

connector 5 connecting the battery 4 to the antenna PCB 3, which battery 4 supplies DC power to the electric circuitry of the mobile telephone. The antenna connector connects the battery 4 directly to the antenna PCB 3, i.e. the antenna PCB 3 is arranged close to the battery 4. An alternative to a connector between the antenna PCB 3 and the main PCB 1 is to integrate the top-layer flex-film of the two PCB.

Two power amplifiers (PA) are arranged on the antenna PCB 3, one for each radiating element. A PA is one of the highest power-consuming components of the mobile telephone. By providing the PAs and the power supply connector 5 on the antenna PCB 3 the current path for the DC power from the battery 4 to the PAs and subsequently to the antenna element 2 is reduced to a minimum.

A further advantage with a PA on an antenna PCB is that the increased amount of air around the PA gives the possibility to better cooling of the PA.

The antenna element 2 has two radiating elements and is attached to the antenna PCB 3. As the antenna element 2 is close to the PAs on the antenna PCB 3 a low power loss between the PAs and the radiating element is obtained. The antenna element 2 is illustrated with two radiating elements but may have more or fewer radiating elements. The number of PAs is matched to the number of radiating elements.

The battery 4 is easily detachable for recharging or for replacement. Alternatively, a battery need not be detached for recharging, but may be recharged while attached to the mobile telephone. A rechargeable battery usually includes circuitry for controlling a recharge process, e.g. such that the battery is not overcharged. Such circuitry can be

provided on the antenna PCB instead, allowing the battery to only comprise DC connectors and battery cells.

As rechargeable batteries of today are almost as long-lived as the rest of the mobile telephone it is not necessary to provide a replaceable battery, but a permanently attached battery would be sufficient, which facilitates the design of the mobile telephone.

The PAs are only one kind of component that needs DC power in the mobile telephone and in order to provide DC power to the main PCB 1 a board connector on the antenna PCB 3 relays DC power from the antenna PCB 3 to the main PCB 1.

The antenna PCB 3 may be provided with further electric circuitry for antenna operation. Two low noise amplifiers (LNA) for amplification of received RF signals are advantageously provided close to the antenna element, i.e. on the antenna PCB 3. Further circuitry may e.g. include filters, frequency up/down converters, and switches. By providing all RF circuitry for antenna operation on the antenna PCB 3 a preferred antenna module is formed, since a natural interface is obtained between the antenna PCB 3 and the main PCB 1.

A low-resistance connection has a higher loss than a 50Ω connection. By providing a PA and/or an LNA on an antenna PCB close to an antenna element it is feasible and advantageous to use non- 50Ω connections between the PA and the antenna element and/or between the LNA and the antenna element, as the higher resistance losses are very small.

A second embodiment of the present invention will next be described with reference to Fig. 2.

A mobile telephone comprises a planar dielectric substrate provided with electric main circuitry, such as a main PCB 1 provided with components for operation of the mobile telephone; an antenna element 2; a planar dielectric
5 substrate provided with electrical antenna circuitry, such as an antenna PCB 3 provided with components for antenna operation, wherein the antenna PCB 3 is connected to the antenna element 2; a support structure 6 supporting the antenna element 3; and a battery 4.

10 The antenna element 2 may be a flex film, wherein conductive portions forms radiating elements, integrated with the flex-film of the antenna PCB 3, but not supported by the antenna PCB 3. The support structure 6 for the antenna element 2 may be comprised of a framework supporting the edges of the
15 antenna element 2, or only the edge of the antenna element 2 farthest from the antenna PCB 3. The flex-film may be supported by a planar circuit board, but advantageously the antenna element 2 is formed to fit the design of the mobile telephone supported by the framework 6.

20 The antenna PCB 3 is provided with a power supply connector 5 connected to the battery 4 for DC power supply, and a board connector for attachment of the antenna PCB 3 essentially perpendicular to the main PCB 1. The antenna PCB 3 is further provided with a PA for amplification of RF
25 signals to be transmitted by the antenna element 2.

The antenna PCB 3 may further be provided with circuitry, for antenna operation, such as e.g. an LNA, such that an antenna arrangement can be provided as a preferred antenna module as described in the first embodiment. The antenna PCB
30 3 may also be provided with circuitry for battery operation, such that a battery for use with the mobile telephone only needs DC connectors and battery cells.

The main PCB 1 and the antenna PCB 3 need not be separated PCBs but may be comprised of an integrated PCB, i.e. connected substrates with a single flex-film.

5 A third embodiment of the present invention will next be described with reference to Fig. 3.

This embodiment is identical with the second embodiment except that the top layer of the main PCB 1, the antenna element, and the top layer of the antenna PCB 3 is a single flex-film 10. With the flex-film 10 no connectors are needed
10 between the antenna element and the antenna PCB 3, and/or between the antenna PCB 3 and the main PCB 1.

The single flex-film 10 is supported by the antenna PCB 3, the main PCB 1, and by a support structure for the antenna element. The stiff part of the antenna PCB 3 supports the
15 top layer of the antenna PCB, which is one part of the single flex-film 10. The stiff part of the main PCB 1 supports the top layer of the main PCB, which is a second part of the single flex-film 10. A support structure (not shown in Fig. 3) supports the antenna element, which is a
20 third part of the single flex-film 10.

A fourth embodiment of the present invention will next be described with reference to Fig. 4.

A mobile telephone comprises a main PCB 1; two antenna elements 2 and 2'; an antenna PCB 3 connected to the antenna
25 elements 2 and 2'; and a battery 4.

The antenna PCB 3 is provided with a power supply connector 5 connected to the battery 4 for supplying DC power, and a board connector for attachment of the antenna PCB 3 essentially perpendicular to the main PCB 1. The antenna PCB
30 3 is further provided with a PA for amplification of RF

signals to be transmitted by the antenna elements 2 and 2'. The PA has a balanced output, which allows easy feeding of the two similar antenna elements 2 and 2'.

The antenna PCB 3 may further be provided with circuitry, for antenna operation, such as e.g. an LNA, such that an antenna arrangement can be provided as a practical antenna module. The antenna PCB 3 may also be provided with circuitry for battery operation, such that a battery for use with the mobile telephone only needs DC connectors 5 and battery cells.

A general aspect of the present invention will next be described with reference to Fig. 5.

A mobile telephone according to the present invention and the head of a user 7 close to the mobile telephone are shown to the left in Fig. 5. The largest DC current of the mobile telephone, i.e. the current fed to the PA and subsequently to the transmitting part of the antenna element 2, is not present closer to the user than indicated by the dashed line 8.

A mobile telephone according to prior art and the head of a user 7 close to the mobile telephone are shown to the right in Fig. 5. The largest DC current of the mobile telephone, i.e. the current fed to the PA and subsequently to the transmitting part of the antenna element 2, is present closer to the user than indicated by the dashed line 9.

The difference in the distance between the head of a user 7 and the dashed lines 8, 9, respectively, is several millimeters. Such distance differences are very significant when dealing with current dependencies in the near-field as even one millimeter is significant. The distance to the head

of a user 7 does not affect the far-field and thus the increased distance to the user is very advantageous.

Although the above described antenna arrangements only include internal radiating elements, they may comprise any
5 type of radiating element, such as e.g. a retractable whip, a meander, an inverted F, a helix, etc.

It will be obvious that the present invention may be varied in a plurality of ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as departure from the scope of the present
10 invention. All such variations as would be obvious for a person skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A portable radio communication device comprising:

- a first planar dielectric substrate provided with electric circuitry (1);

5 - an antenna arrangement, including an antenna element (2, 2') and a second planar dielectric substrate different from said first planar dielectric substrate and provided with electric circuitry (3), wherein the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric substrate is connected to the
10 electric circuitry of said first planar dielectric substrate and to said antenna element;

- at least one power amplifier for amplification of RF signals to be transmitted via said antenna element; and

- a power supply connector connected to a power supply (4)
15 for supplying said power amplifier with DC power;

characterized in that said at least one power amplifier and said power supply connector are arranged on said second planar dielectric substrate and connected to the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric
20 circuitry and that said first planar dielectric substrate is separate from said first planar dielectric substrate.

2. The portable radio communication device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first and second planar dielectric substrates are provided as first and second circuit boards.

25 3. The portable radio communication device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electric circuitry of said first and second planar dielectric substrates is provided on a single flex-film.

4. The portable radio communication device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said antenna element is provided on said single flex-film.

5. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 1-4, wherein said second planar dielectric substrate is arranged adjacent said power supply.

6. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 1, 2 or 5, wherein power supply to the electric circuitry of said first planar dielectric substrate is provided via the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric substrate.

7. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 1-6, wherein said second planar dielectric substrate is oriented essentially perpendicular to said first planar dielectric substrate.

8. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 1-7, wherein said power supply is permanently connected to said power supply connector.

9. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 1-8, wherein circuitry for battery operation is arranged on said second planar dielectric substrate.

10. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 1-9, wherein RF circuitry for antenna operation is arranged on said second planar dielectric substrate.

11. An antenna arrangement for a portable radio communication device including a first circuit board (1), comprising:

- an antenna element (2, 2'); and

- a second circuit board (3) different from said first circuit board and connected to said antenna element and including a connector connectable to said first circuit board;

5 characterized in that

at least one power amplifier for amplification of RF signals to be transmitted via said antenna element and a power supply connector for supplying said power amplifier with DC power are arranged on said second circuit board.

10 12. The antenna arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein said connector is arranged to connect said second circuit board essentially perpendicular to said first circuit board.

13. The antenna arrangement as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein circuitry for battery operation is arranged on said
15 second circuit board.

14. The antenna arrangement as claimed in any of claims 11-13, wherein RF circuitry for antenna operation is arranged on said second circuit board.

15. An antenna and battery arrangement for a portable radio
20 communication device including a first circuit board (1), comprising:

- an antenna element (2, 2'); and

- a second circuit board (3) different from said first circuit board and connected to said antenna element and
25 including a connector connectable to said first circuit board;

characterized in that

- at least one power amplifier for amplification of RF signals to be transmitted via said antenna element and a power supply connector for supplying said at least one power amplifier with DC power are arranged on said second circuit board; and

- a power supply (4) is permanently connected to said power supply connector.

16. A portable radio communication device comprising:

- a first planar dielectric substrate provided with electric circuitry (1);

- an antenna arrangement, including an antenna element (2, 2') and a second planar dielectric substrate different from said first planar dielectric substrate and provided with electric circuitry (3), wherein the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric substrate is connected to the electric circuitry of said first planar dielectric substrate and to said antenna element; and

- at least one power amplifier for amplification of RF signals to be transmitted via said antenna element;

characterized in that said at least one power amplifier is arranged on said second planar dielectric substrate and connected to the electric circuitry of said second planar dielectric substrate and said second planar dielectric substrate is oriented essentially perpendicular to said first planar dielectric substrate.

17. The portable radio communication device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said first and second planar dielectric substrates are provided as first and second circuit boards.

18. The portable radio communication device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electric circuitry of said first and second planar dielectric substrates is provided on a single flex-film.

5 19. The portable radio communication device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said antenna element is provided on said single flex-film.

20. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 16-19, wherein said second planar dielectric
10 substrate is arranged closer to a power supply for the portable radio communication device than a major part of said antenna element.

21. The portable radio communication device as claimed in any of claims 16-20, wherein said second planar dielectric
15 substrate comprises a power supply connector connected to a power supply for supplying said at least one power amplifier with DC power.

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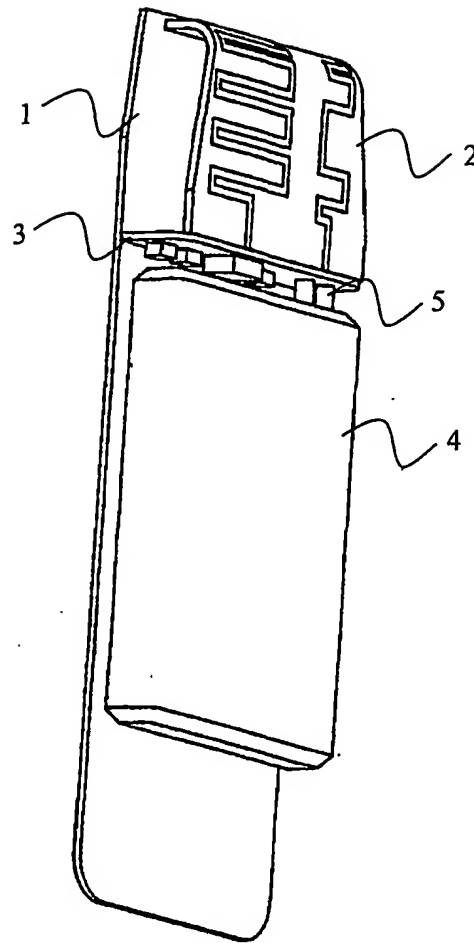


FIG. 1

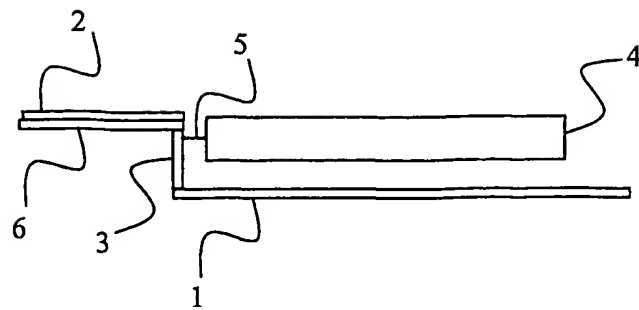


FIG. 2

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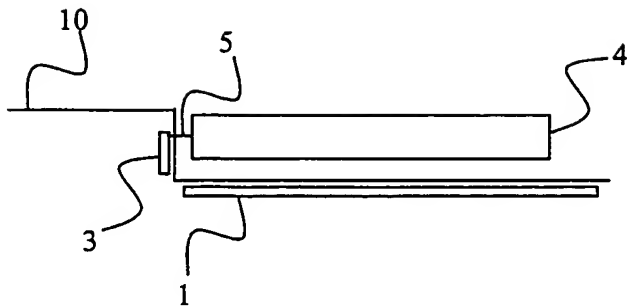


FIG. 3

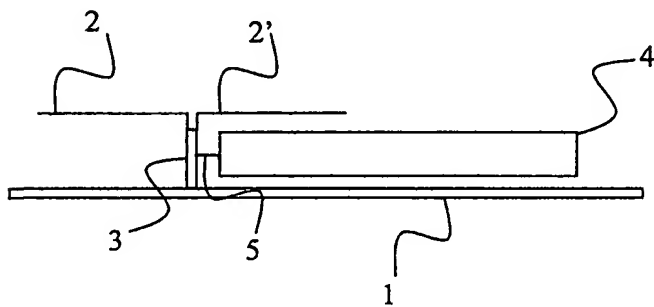


FIG. 4

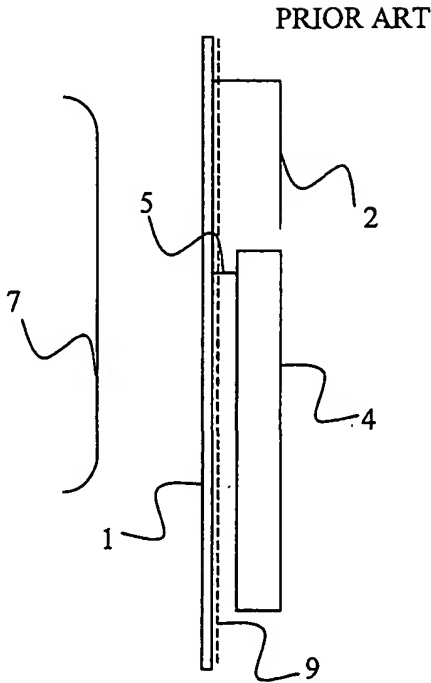
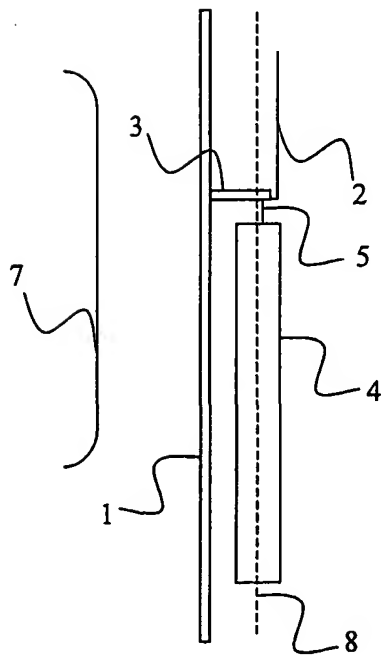


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 02/01041

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: H01Q 1/24, H04B 1/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: H01Q, H04B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	WO 0126181 A1 (RANGESTAR WIRELESS, INC.), 12 April 2001 (12.04.01), figures 1,4 --	7,12
A	EP 1079463 A2 (RANGESTAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION), 28 February 2001 (28.02.01), figures 1,3 --	7,12

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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